(iv) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Rs. 1/- to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.

(v) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/ UTs.

(vi) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to: (a) Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms and (b) Ensure delivery of other services *viz.* immunization, health check-up, referral services, nutrition & health education and pre-primary education through effective convergence with the Schemes/ Programmes of Ministry of Health, Education and Rural Development (Drinking Water Supply).

(vii) Setting up of a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), to monitor the Scheme through independent professional Organization/institution in each state/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(viii) A National level Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of MOS (WCD), to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.

As a result of these measures, number of operational ICDS Projects and AWCs has gone up from 5267 and 6.49 lakh, as on 31.3.2004, to 5724 and 7.81 lakh respectively, as on 30.9.2006. Number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition and pre-school education has also gone up from 415.09 lakh to 654.65 lakh and 204.38 lakh to 271.28 lakh respectively during the same period.

PALNA Scheme

1478. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a Scheme called the "PALNA" Scheme for unwanted girl children;

(b) the details of the PALNA Scheme;

(c) what are the safeguards in this scheme;

(d) whether there is a grave danger that children will be abandoned by parents;

(e) whether experience of any other country been noted in formulating the PALNA Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Government has proposed an 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme', which has various components, and 'Cradic Baby Scheme' or 'Palna' is one of them. The proposed Integrated Child Protection Scheme is under consideration for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(b) to (f) The Integrated Child Protection Scheme envisages setting up Cradle Baby Reception Centres in each district. These Cradle Baby Reception Centres will be linked to Cradle Points at Primary Health Care Centres, Hospitals/Nursing Homes, Swadhar Units, Short Stay Homes and in the office of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to receive abandoned babies. The Cradle Baby Reception Centre shall function from the premises of State Adoption Agency (SAA) equipped with all basic facilities for infants. The primary objective of these Reception Centres shall be to rescue the girl child and look after her with due care and affection till she is given in adoption. Each State Adoption Agency (SAA) shall install one cradle at the doorstep to receive such babies.

Minimum standards for children of women prisoners

1479. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the apex court, in its judgement dated 13th December, 2006, issued directions and guidelines to ensure that certain minimum standards are observed for children of women prisoners; and